

The Confederate.

D. K. McRAE, A. M. GORMAN
EDITORS.

SATURDAY, May 21, 1864.

The Situation.

The summer up, to this time, of the military affairs shows—that from the first attempt of Grant upon the lines of Gen. Lee in the Wilderness, down to the last attack as reported in the telegrams of Gen. Lee of the 18th, from Spottsylvania C. H., when he made an assault upon the position of Gen. Ewell and was "heavily repulsed," our defenders have been signally successful. At no time has the enemy obtained a foothold within our lines, except in the instance where he broke in overwhelming force over Gen. Ed. Johnson, and succeeded in capturing that officer with some two thousand prisoners and 15 pieces of artillery. And here the line was almost immediately reestablished, and it has not since been broken, nor in any instance retired. The repulse of the foe have been attended, to him, with a slaughter wholly disproportionate to ours, and such a loss as his army cannot be able to afford. We have the New York Tribune of May the 12th. Of course it claims a glorious victory; but it admits a loss of forty thousand men, up to Tuesday the 9th.

It would seem that, at the last advance the Yankee General had extended his left, rolling his right, and lay along the line of the Ny river—his main force east of the stream. Gen. Lee would seem to be on the line of the P., and covering the Telegraph road by Bowling Green to Richmond. The New York Tribune admits the effect of their heavy slaughter, and claims that the question is now one of endurance.

About our capacity, it is to come to this, there can be no doubt. With comparative small loss, after such desperate fighting; with a spirit keen and confident; a courage not only unimpaired, but emboldened, and a patriotic determination never shaken, there is no danger on our side of struggling, desertion nor demoralization; while the discomfited, baffled, repulsed and disappointed crew, kept drunk to create courage, are fit subjects for all the deleterious influences to which we have alluded.

Add to this the impressive intelligence which reaches our gallant troops each day, that Johnston has in a similar manner repulsed the repeated assaults of Sherman:—that Dick Taylor has the Banks closed up; that Ming is not, defeated and wounded Averill, and that Brockbridge has utterly routed the Dutch Sargel, and new hopes arise and heroic determination is strengthened; while to the other side, the long, varying recital of defeat and disaster, must produce gloom, despondency and depression—which there is no patriotic impulse to relieve against, and from which whiskey will not revive.

But this is not, good as it is, the only comforting assurance we have. In our view, the success of Gen. Beauregard is of immense importance. It has not been as decisive as we could desire, unless the rumor prove true that the troops of Butler are embarking from their line in the little space between the James and Appomattox. If this be true, we may expect to hear of excellent results.

Altogether we have just cause for profound gratification, in the present aspect of the case. We feel now abiding confidence that the worst of the storm has passed by. At varying intervals there may be momentary renewals of the enemy's efforts; but our armies have already, in meeting successfully the first tremendous shock, surmounted the main difficulty. Husbanded as our men have been, with the care which is one of the distinguishing characteristics of our great Commander, they remain singularly intact and unimpaired, and competent for defense in much greater ratio to the power of the assailant, than when the conflict first began.

The time is not meet for Eulogy. The hearts of our people are wrung with grief. Mothers, wives, kindred, and friends will find no solace yet, in the consideration that their loved ones who are lost to them for this life, have perished in the honorable discharge of duty, for the preservation of liberty and the salvation of their country; that they have offered their lives as a boon to posterity, to purchase for those who cannot fight the precious heritage of independence. These soothing considerations will come with time, and to time alone must be left, to bring consolation.

North Carolina is bereaved. In sorrowful affliction she stands by the sod where her heroes lie covered, and weeps in her desolation.

To the long list of the brave who have heretofore fallen, are now to be added the names of

Brig. Gen. J. B. GORDON,
Brig. Gen. J. P. DANIEL,
Colonel THOS. M. GARRETT,
Colonel O. M. AVERY,
Major JAS. J. REDELL,
Captain R. W. ANDERSON,
Lieutenant EDWARD H. SWEDES,
Lieutenant WM. H. HAYWOOD.

These are they whom we know and can call by name. But there are many nameless ones whose fate as yet has not been heard of. Also on every field the sons of our State attest in bloody sacrifices their devotion to the cause. Others are reported to have fallen and a long list of suffering wounded.

Our pen falters in the narration of sorrow, affliction and mourning. It is the dread record of war—merciless war—the carnage which our devilish foe inflicts upon our people.

Eschewing Personalities.—Mr. Holden's Opinion of Men.

After stigmatizing Mr. Clay as a mancher, thief, swearer, gambler and peevish, Mr. Holden next turned his attention to Gov. Graham.

Gov. Graham attacked Mr. Holden by becoming a candidate for Governor in 1871, and again in 1876; and Mr. Holden was obliged to defend himself. Of course he did so "with reluctance and regret;" but the inevitable necessity was upon him, and he meets it in this wise:

"We dare Gov. Graham to meet Mr. Shepard before the people of the West."—Standard, May 27th, 1864.

"The truth is, Gov. Graham's principles and conduct cannot be successfully defended."

"Wm. A. Graham sees the current running against him, and he is alarmed; and he is determined in his desperation to play the demagogue for a month, that he may be Governor for two years longer."—Standard, May 27th, 1864.

"Many Whigs are disgusted with the conduct of Gov. Graham and his little and low attacks on Mr. Shepard, and his cowardly fears of meeting him before the people."—Standard, June 24th, 1864.

And is this indeed Wm. A. Graham? If Gov. Graham does not know this plain fact, he is too ignorant to be Governor.—Standard, July 1st, 1864.

This is moderate for Mr. Holden. Gov. Graham may congratulate himself, that in Mr. Holden's estimation he is only a "coward, a demagogue and an ignoramus." There is no telling what he would have been, if the necessity of defending himself had devolved upon Mr. Holden the unpleasant duty of "inflicting further pain" on Gov. Graham.

We refresh the public memory with Mr. Holden's opinion of Gov. Graham, to show the astuteness of Mr. Holden's perception, and with how much and how nice a discrimination he affixes to his victims their appropriate designations. Every one will readily see how applicable to Gov. Graham, is the appellation demagogue! his supple and twisting ways; his ready concession of principle to popular demands; his pliant, affable and familiar disposition which so readily puts all men at once upon an equality with him; his freedom from obstinacy of opinion, and the readiness with which he subjects his thoughts to those of other men. These qualities of the demagogue in Gov. Graham readily presented themselves to the eye of so acute an observer as Mr. Holden. But if demagogues be admitted to be a proper attribute of Gov. Graham, who will question the justice or propriety of the accusation of cowardice. It took no extraordinary perception to discover this. A coward! why any man who will look upon Gov. Graham's form and figure, his person and bearing, his face and deportment, without at all investigating his life and character, can at once determine upon this point; and no man's opinion will be at all strengthened by Mr. Holden's pronouncement.

When you add to the demagogue and coward, the other character of an ignoramus! you have the photograph of Gov. Graham as drawn by Mr. Holden.

The people of North Carolina will not differ in their opinion upon the fidelity of the likeness; and Mr. Holden, like many other artists, may enjoy the satisfaction of having achieved a unanimous sentiment for his work.

North Carolinians, we shall continue to present to you these defenses of himself by Mr. Holden, from time to time, against the attacks of his enemies in the State. Two things will be discovered in the sequel. First, that without exception, every respectable, worthy, great man in the State has been an enemy of Mr. Holden. But that is the folly and weakness of themselves. The second, that Mr. Holden, when he defends himself against such attacks, is not particular as to the nature of the weapon he uses or the manner of its employment.

There is a consolation, however, in the reflection, that it gives (Mr. Holden) no pleasure to inflict pain even on an enemy. Hence his kindly dealing with the Yankees. The merciful and humane man!

GALLANT CHARGE.—We have been furnished with the following account of the gallant part borne by the 31st and 51st regiments North Carolina Troops, of Clingman's brigade, in the fight of the 18th of May, at the Port Walthall Junction battle:

On the 18th of May, two regiments of Clingman's brigade, the 31st and 51st, were ordered to advance. In a moment the troops mounted the breastworks, and over across the field in front drove the enemy's skirmishers in confusion, and charged with a terrific yell two of their lines of breastworks, killing and capturing hundreds, sending nearly a whole regiment of Yankees to the rear. These troops then charged a third time, where thousands of the enemy were concealed, killing and capturing many in their lines. In a moment our brave boys were flanked on both sides by two brigades of infantry and some artillery. After terrible loss our men were forced to fall back.

Major General Hoke complimented them very highly.

Gen. Beauregard spoke of this charge as very gallant.

The other two regiments were in a different portion of the field acting their part well, as their loss will show.

THE LATEST.

From the Enquirer of Wednesday, we take the following:

Official information received last night states that Beauregard has driven the Yankees beyond Ware Bottom Church, in the lower part of Chesterfield. Some of our men saw their gunboats in the distance. Major General Ransom and staff returned to the city last evening. All was quiet below on both sides of the river.

It was reported that Butler's forces were crossing the James yesterday. It was thought, for the purpose of marching to join Grant at Matamoras Hill. Should such a movement occur, our forces will be up with them.

Extract of a letter from Wilson:

In spite of the Progress' assertions, if there is more than one Holden man in this county, the people certainly don't know it, and he never voted for Vance.

THE WAR NEWS!

From the Richmond Sentinel, of Tuesday.

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captors of four stand of colors and one battery.

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STATE LEGISLATURE.

Session of May 20, 1864.

From the Richmond Sentinel, of Tuesday.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

REPORTS OF THE PRESS ASSOCIATION.

Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1863, by J. S. FARRAR, in the Clerk's office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

More Fighting Near Petersburg.

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